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Local Fund dispensaries in Tiruchirappalli district.

* 2103 *Q.*—SRI K. R. VISWANATHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of Local Fund dispensaries which remain closed in the Tiruchirappalli district; and

(*b*) the steps taken by the Government for making these dispensaries function?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" (*a*) Nil, Sir.

" (*b*) Does not arise."

Starred Question No. 2104 not to be taken up on 19th August 1955.

Recommendations of the Jail Reforms Committee

* 2105 *Q.*—SRI V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether any of the main recommendations of the Jail Reforms Committee have been implemented by Government up till now;

(*b*) if so, what are the steps taken;

(*c*) whether the Government have any proposal to make Members of the Legislature visitors of jails within their districts; and

(*d*) whether the Government have appointed any officers to inspect the conditions of Police lock-ups periodically and report to the Government; and if so, the particulars of those officers?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" (*a*) Yes, Sir.

" (*b*) A statement[a] containing the information is placed on the table of the House.

" (*c*) No, Sir.

" (*d*) No officer has been specially appointed for the purpose, but inspecting officers of and above the rank of Inspectors of Police inspect the Police lock-ups during their visits or inspections of the Police stations and record any defects noticed by them in their inspection reports. In the Madras City, officers of the Public Works Department and magistrates also inspect the Police lock-ups periodically."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" Sir, the indecent sight of under-trials bathing in the open before crowded courts is a common phenomenon in this State inasmuch as sub-jails have no provision for bathing in privacy. Will the Government take this as a part of the jail reform and implement it as soon as possible? This has been referred to on the floor of this House more than once."

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Sir, I do not know whether it is indecent sight, because we are accustomed to bathing in public. But still the matter is under the consideration of the Government."

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[a] **Printed as Appendix I on page 93 infra**

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SRI V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR :—" In answer to sub-clause (*d*) of the question, the Hon. Minister said that in Madras City, officers of the Public Works Department and magistrates also inspect the Police lock-ups periodically. May I know whether that salutory principle may be introduced in the mufassal also so that Police lock-ups may be more humane or become humane and as regards sub-clause (*c*) may I request the Hon. Minister to consider the question of allowing Members of the Legislature to be visitors of jails so that they may be enabled to discharge their duties more efficiently? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" With regard to the supplementary question on sub-clause (*d*) I beg to submit that no specific purpose will be served by asking non-officials also to visit the lock-ups as such. After all it is only a temporary lock-up to lodge the prisoners there pending their being brought before the magistrate. As far as sub-clause (*c*) is concerned, the matter has been fully considered by the Government, the rule that all Members of Legislature should be visitors of jails has not been accepted by the Government."

SRI V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR :—" In respect of answer to sub-clause (*d*) my suggestion was not that non-officials should be made visitors of Police lock-ups but magistrates may be. I quite agree that the Police lock-ups should be and ought to be temporary places of lodging for less than 24 hours but often the Police lock-up terminates the life of the man or sometimes it does. Even during the short sojourn, the conditions there are reported to be inhuman. May I therefore suggest that magistrates may be allowed to be visitors of these Police lock-ups "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" So far we have not received any complaints about the insanitary conditions or other inhuman conditions prevailing there. Now and then cases arise with regard to inhuman treatment given to some of the prisoners. But that cannot in anyway be rectified by magistrates visiting these Police lock-ups once in a way."

SRI P. RAMAMURTHI :—" The Hon. Minister for Finance stated that so far Government have not received any reports of complaints of insanitary and inhuman conditions inside the Police lock-ups. May I ask him whether he has not had personal experience of the conditions there and whether he still wants any report from somebody else? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" I have had personal experience of it, Sir, many times. The sanitary conditions prevailing in Police lock-ups are much better than those in many of the sub-jails."

SRI S. DAIVASIGAMONEY :—" No doubt, under the law, no person can be kept in the lock-up for more than 24 hours. But in practice we find a person is taken to the Police station under

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the pretext of investigation and is detained in the lock-up for any number of days and no one is allowed inside the Police station to see the person or talk to him. This is being carried on almost every day. Will the Government see to it that such practices do not recur hereafter and allow persons to visit these lock-ups so that it may act as a check on the Police officers? ''

The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Sir, the question which the Hon. Member has put does not arise out of the main question. This is a general complaint and such generalizations certainly do not help.''

Hospital at Tirukkoyilur

9–30 a.m. * 2106 *Q.*—Sri A. MUTHUSWAMY : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state why no lady doctor has been posted to the hospital at Tirukkoyilur for the past two years?

The Hon. Sri A. B. SHETTY :—" Due to the dearth of qualified Women Medical Officers the post could not be filled up so far and no candidate applied for the post when vacancies were advertised in the papers.''

Sri K. ARANGANATHAN :—" May I know whether the Hon. Minister is aware of the fact that the post has been filled up? ''

The Hon. Sri A. B. SHETTY :—" That is very good news.''

Cases of capital sentence in the State

* 2107 *Q.*—Sri V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) how many cases of capital sentences have been carried out in 1953–54 and 1954–55 ;

(*b*) how many such cases have been commuted by this Government in these years ; and

(*c*) whether the Government have any proposal to suspend the execution of capital sentences generally?

The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" (*a*) 41 and 44.

" (*b*) 35 and 14. (These numbers do not include 18 cases commuted by the President of India.)

" (*c*) No, Sir.''

Sri V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR :—" Have the Government considered the proposal that has been in the air for a long time that except in extreme cases capital sentences should not be executed even when courts have inflicted them. That must be the rule and it should ordinarily come under the clemency powers of the State only? ''